

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5193

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, UNGA, UR
SUBJECT: SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL -- TAKING OF HOSTAGES)

REF: (A) USUN 2675
(B) USUN 5149

SUMMARY. JAPAN, SWEDEN, MOROCCO, BRAZIL, USSR, ITALY, SPAIN
AND PORTUGAL ADDRESSED COMMITTEE DEC. 1. ALL STATEMENTS SUP-
PORTED RECONVENING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE, WITH EXCEPTION USSR
WHICH SAID IT WOULD NOT OBJECT IF MAJORITY DESIRED RECONVEN-
ING BUT SUGGESTED MERGER WITH TERRORISM ITEM. END SUMMARY.

1. STATEMENTS BY JAPAN, SWEDEN, MOROCCO, BRAZIL, ITALY
SAPIN AND PORTUGAL, ALL CO-SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION ON TAKING
OF HOSTAGES, CONDEMNED THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES, SUPPORTED THE
RECONVENING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, AND URGES COMPLETION
OF DRAFT TEXT. MOCOCCO SAID SCOPE OF CONVENTION SHOULD NOT
BE PROBLEM IN LIGHT OF RECENT ADOPTION OF PROTOCOL I TO

1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS, WHICH REJECTS NOTION THERE ARE NO
LIMITS ON ACTIONS WHICH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MAY
USE TO SECURE SELF-DETERMINATION.

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2. USSR STATEMENT NOTABLY UNHELPFUL. CALLED FOR PROBLEM
OF TAKING OF HOSTAGES TO BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO
PROBLEM OF TERRORISM. SAID WORK ON PROBLEM MUST NOT BE
DETRIMENTAL TO RIGHTS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND
URGED SOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO MORE
TECHNICAL ISSUES. CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO

RECONVENING HOSTAGES COMMITTEE IF MAJORITY SO DECIDED, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER MERGER WITH TERRORISM COMMITTEE MIGHT NOT BE PREFERABLE. SOVIET STATEMENT MOST NEGATIVE STATEMENT IN SIXTH COMMITTEE DEBATE SO FAR.

3. SOVIET PERFORMANCE IN FIRST SESSION AD HOC COMMITTEE OF TAKING OF HOSTAGES HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL. (REFTEL A). FRG INFORMS US IT WENT TO MOSCOW AFTER SESSION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SEEK MORE COOPERATIVE SOVIET ATTITUDE. SOVIETS ASSURED FRG THAT THEY WOULD NOT MAKE TROUBLE ON ISSUE IN SIXTH COMMITTEE. FRG INFORMED US THEY "DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT SURPRISED" BY SOVIET STATEMENT IN SIXTH COMMITTEE.

4. STATEMENT BY POLAND AT NOV. 30 MEETING (REFTEL B) WAS MUCH MORE POSITIVE THAN SOVIET STATEMENT. ALTHOUGH POLAND CALLED ATTENTION TO PROBLEM OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, POLAND CLEARLY INDICATED ITS SUPPORT FOR FRG DRAFT RESOLUTION. FRG INFORMED US THAT POLAND HAD TOLD FRG IT WOULD GO "AS FAR AS IT COULD" IN SUPPORT FRG ITEM.

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Message Attributes

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